WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent image bearing member;

a developing portion having a plurality of

5   developing devices and provided opposite to said

latent image bearing member;

an inputting portion for inputting an image

signal;

an auto-discriminating portion for

10 automatically discriminating the kind of an inputted

image;

a first mode for executing a monochrome image

formation;

a second mode for executing a color image

15 formation;

an auto-selecting mode for changing over said

first mode and said second mode according to a

discrimination of said auto-discriminating portion;

and

20   a control portion for starting to move a

predetermined developing device to a predetermined

position before said auto-discriminating portion

makes the discrimination when said auto-selecting

mode is selected.

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2. An image forming apparatus according to

Claim 1, wherein said predetermined developing device

is a developing device to be used in said first mode.

3. An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said predetermined developing device
5 is a developing device to be used initially in said
second mode.

4. An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said control portion further moves a
10 developing device different from said predetermined
developing device to a developing position according
to the discrimination.

5. An image forming apparatus according to
15 Claim 1, wherein said plurality of developing devices
are disposed around a rotation shaft in said
developing portion, and said developing portion is
rotated about the rotation shaft to bring a
developing device of said plurality of developing
20 devices into a developing position opposite to said
latent image bearing member to perform a development.

6. An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein when a developing device to be used
25 initially in a mode changed over according to the
discrimination of said auto-discriminating portion is
different from said predetermined developing device,

said control portion moves said developing device to be used initially into a developing position.

7. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said auto-discriminating portion discriminates whether the inputted image is monochrome or colored.

8. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control portion selects said predetermined developing device, which starts to move before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination, according to a setting set by an operator.

9. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control portion selects said predetermined developing device, which starts to move before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination, according to a frequency in use of said first mode and a frequency in use of said second mode of said image forming apparatus.

10. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said developing portion is provided with a black developing device.

11. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent image bearing member;

a developing portion having a plurality of developing devices and provided opposite to said

5 latent image bearing member;

an inputting portion for inputting an image signal;

an auto-discriminating portion for automatically discriminating the kind of an inputted

10 image;

a first mode for executing an image formation using a first developing device;

a second mode for executing an image formation without using said first developing device;

15 an auto-selecting mode for changing over said first mode and said second mode according to a discrimination of said auto-discriminating portion; and

a control portion for starting to move a

20 predetermined developing device to a predetermined position before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination when said auto-selecting mode is selected.

25 12. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said predetermined developing device is a developing device to be used in said

first mode.

13. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said predetermined developing device is a developing device to be used initially in said second mode.

14. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein at least a developer contained in said first developing device of said plurality of developing devices is a mono-component developer.

15. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control portion selects said predetermined developing device, which starts to move before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination, according to a setting set by an operator.

16. An image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said control portion selects said predetermined developing device, which starts to move before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination, according to a frequency in use of said first mode and a frequency in use of said second mode of said image forming apparatus.

17. An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 11, wherein said developing portion has at
least one or more sets of developing devices having
developers of the same color and different densities.

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18. An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 11, wherein said developing portion has at
least one or more sets of developing devices having
developers of the same color and different components.

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